

Message Text

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12

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SS-14 AID-20 BNDD-05 CIAE-00 INR-09

IO-12 JUSE-00 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SNM-02 SY-07 TRSE-00

USIA-12 NSC-10 SCI-06 OMB-01 EUR-25 RSR-01 /140 W
----- 070868

R 160758 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY RANGOON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6565
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
AMCONSUL CHIANG MAI
AMCONSUL HONG KONG

CONFIDENTIAL RANGOON 0670

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR TH HK BM

SUBJECT: NARCOTICS: ROLPH VISIT

REF: (A) BANGKOK 4142; (B) BANGKOK 3786

1. CONCUR WITH EMBASSY BANGKOK THAT POSTING A UK OR HK LIAISON OFFICER AT BRITISH EMBASSY BANGKOK COULD PROVE USEFUL. HOPEFULLY IT WOULD ALSO SPARK BRITISH EMBASSY RANGOON TO TAKE MORE ACTIVE INTEREST IN NARCOTICS SITUATION.

2. IN BRIEF DISCUSSION OF ROLPH VISIT TO RANGOON, BRITISH EMBASSY FIRST SECRETARY ADOPTED USUAL LINE THAT IT WOULD BE " DANGEROUS AND COUNTER- PRODUCTIVE" TO CRITICIZE AND PRESS GUB TOO HARD ON NARCOTICS MATTERS. EMBASSY OFFICER AGREED BUT SAID IT WAS QUITE ANOTHER THING TO EXPRESS CONCERN ABOUT WORLD WIDE NATURE OF MENACE, POINT OUT THAT WE WERE ALL IN IT TOGETHER, AND NOTE THAT PROBLEM HAD TO BE ATTACKED ON SUPPLY FRONT AS WELL AS FROM DEMAND VIEWPOINT.

ENCOURAGING STEPS TAKEN BY GUB IN RECENT MONTHS WERE DUE IN PART TO ADVERSE PUBLICITY BURMA HAD RECEIVED AND TO REPRESENTATION FROM VARIOUS SOURCES.

3. SUGGESTION PARA 6 REF A THAT KEY THAI POLICE OFFICIALS MIGHT
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BE INVITED TO HONG KONG RECALLS THAT WE SUGGESTED TO ROLPH THAT BURMESE OFFICIALS OR NEWSMEN MIGHT ALSO BE INVITED THERE. ROLPH SAID HE WOULD MULL OVER IDEA, NOTING THAT BURMESE CONSUL GENERAL IN HK (AN ARMY LT COLONEL) PROBABLY DID LITTLE OR NO REPORTING TO RANGOON ON NARCOTICS. IN VIEW GUB'S PREOCCUPATIONS WITH PRC, IT IS POSSIBLE THAT GUB WOULD BE INTERESTED IN GETTING FIRST HAND INFORMATION ON ANY PRC RELATIONSHIP TO NARCOTICS PROBLEM IN HK.

4. DEPARTMENT MAY WISH REPEAT SERIES OF MESSAGES ON ROLPH'S SEA VISITS TO LONDON.

MARTIN

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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To: BANGKOK
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